

HEALTH:

Improving Our Quality of Life

Our goals of attaining growth, prosperity, and well-being in the hemisphere will be achieved by building and then promoting a solid foundation of good physical and mental health for the people of the Americas.

At the Quebec City Summit, leaders committed to combat diseases and their consequences. They agreed on the need for integrated programs adopting approaches to education, prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Leaders also recognized the considerable threat of such diseases as tuberculosis, dengue, malaria, and Chagas. They emphasized the importance of working with non-governmental organizations and businesses to improve prevention and response. Similarly, leaders aimed to strengthen and promote standards of practice, procedures, and education in order to promote quality health care and equal access to health services.



A doctor checks blood pressure in the open-air market in La Esperanza, Honduras. (Alfredo Srur, The World Bank Group)

The United States is committed to meeting the goals established in Quebec City. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released reports on the quality of health care services throughout the U.S. The Secretary of Health and Human Services chairs the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which supports over two dozen projects in the region. The U.S. is also a major contributor to the Pan American Health Organization and participates in the region's annual health ministers meetings. Through U.S. engagement and the cooperation of partners, we are improving health throughout the region.

U.S. ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE HEMISPHERE'S AGENDA

- President Bush's **Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief** commits, over five years, \$9 billion in new resources for care, treatment, and prevention to 15 of the most afflicted countries, including Haiti and Guyana; \$1 billion to ongoing regional and bilateral HIV/AIDS-related programs in more than 100 countries (at least 32 of which are in the Western Hemisphere); and an additional \$1 billion to the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria**.
- USAID, PAHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, Family Care International, the Population Council, IADB, and the World Bank have proposed a **new strategy to improve maternal health**. The strategy provides a blueprint for preventing the 23,000 annual deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean that occur owing to pregnancy and childbirth. It calls for supporting national and municipal efforts to improve maternal health, providing comprehensive maternal health care and services, increasing public demand for services through education, building partnerships, and financing maternal health services.